Aug 30. 1946

Dear Frank Stauffacher:

Excuse our tardiness in sending information up to you. Jim had gone on to the point where he was waiting to include a reply along with the draft of our paper for the catalogue pamphlet.

If our plans work out we will each have new films completed by November 1st. If they are finished we'll send them of course and hope that they can be shown with the others as well as what ever else you plan for that evening.

We'll have our paper for the pamphlet in the mail September 5th. We have developed a theme which has run rather nearer to two thousand words than the one thousand which you had proposed. I remember you seemed quite lenient

on that point and trust we haven't to much. We will be glad to discuss shortening it if you wish.

We can supply pictures and discriptions. I think this is certainly the best way to cover our procedures. Jim would prefer that we concentrate on this than offer any of his earlier work.

As for illustrations in the pamphlet. Can you print photos and line drawings? We are thinking of making some line drawings illustrating the program notes. The essay needs nothing unless you would like those photos of the sound device and optical printer from Jay Leyda's article.

We are anxious to cooperate with your project in any way possible, contrary

to the impression we may have given in not replying thus far. Let us hear from you if there is anything more you would like.

Best wishes

John Whitney
1610 N. Edgemont St
Hollywood 27, Calif.

Bob —
Could you bring this
letter from the Whitney
Bros., to the attention
of Dr. Morley?
Then let me know, and
I shall write them.

Frank S.

O.K. Frank —
I'll tell you more
when I see you, but
Dr. Morley's name may be used
as a reference — in name
only Bruce

Oct 10
1610 N. Edgemont

Dear Frank Stauffacher:

Every thing seems, thankfully, to be in order with the film showings and so forth. So this note is for another purpose. I am making an application for a Guggenheim fellowship again this years and would like to ask if you believe Grace McCann Morley would permit me to use her name as a reference. I think merely having seen our films and perhaps whatever you may wish to say about me is sufficient to acquaint her for serving as a reference. Would'nt she agree?

If you were to think of anyone else I would be very happy to include

them of course. It is already to late to place more names on my actual opplication, due the 15th, this month. But, as I did last year, I can send a supplimentary list any time over the next two months

Certainly I will be very much appreciative of any assistance you may wish to give on this matter. Thank you kindly and

Best wishes

John H. Whitney

S 252-6
MADE IN U. S. A.

Dear Frank & Dick:

Enclosed is the shooting scene suggested for the publication.

We have been thinking, - copywriter permitting, - that it would be very good to buy the actual galley type of our part of the text of the new book. We would rearrange it and perhaps add to it other pertinent material and print some kind of a catalogue for any special shows or announcements in the future. Would this be possible? We also have in mind printing some form letters and circulars for conducting our new distribution enterprise. We could certainly make a "credit list".

Do you think we could get this type? Or would it be possible to arrange to have something printed up there at the press?

S 252-6
MADE IN U. S. A.

Another thing that we overlooked in talking with you is the forthcoming problem of financing the printing of the new film. This will be around $50. will your budget permit?

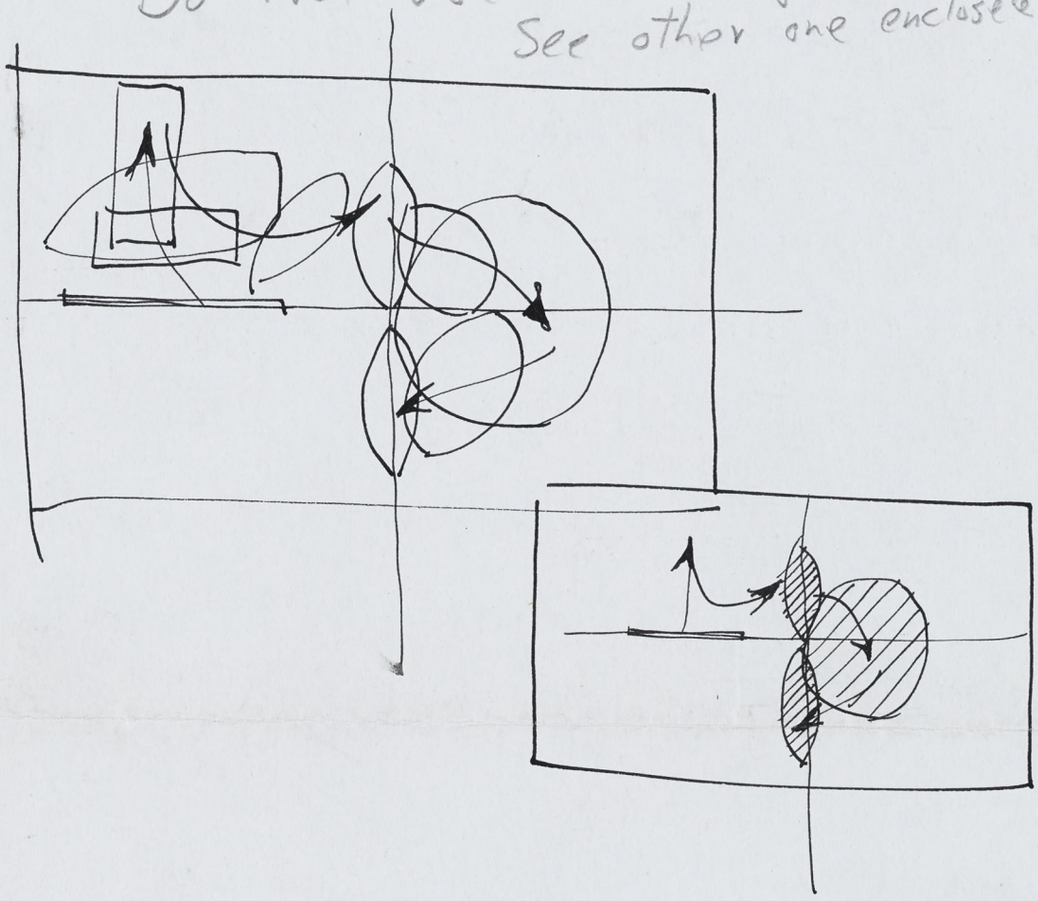
Please let me remind you to send a few dozen if possable, of the catalogue announcements.

That address you wanted for sending our announcement:

Department of State
Office of International Information and Cultural Affairs
Magazine Branch
Mick Royce Mock - Chief
Magazine Liason Section.

Sincerely
J J Whitney

Do Not Use this diagram
See other one enclosed



Film Strip here if you like

Caption for diagram:

Analytical diagram of original thematic sequence upon which the entire last two films were constructed. Films #4 and #5

Caption for film strip:

Condensed reproduction of actual 240 frame film strip used in last two films.

Dear Frank Stauffacher:

By now we are even doubtfull just how you expect to use these film notes. Are they going into the pamphlet? We have no illustrations for the essay. This diagram and reproduction of the film strip should go with the notes. Specifically with those on films #4 & #5. If you don't intend to print the notes with the essay but instead have in mind printing them on a handout sheet the night of the show, we can just as well incorporate these illustrations in our display at the museum.

Best wishes

John & Jim

Dear Frank:

Events have altered things for us considerably since the first of the month and I'll make this my excuse for not writing to express thanks to you and Foster and my San Mateo hosts during the visit. I know we three were hardly prepared for such a reception and such consistant good spirit. The total ramifications of your & Foster's film project impressed us by contrast with what we are familiar with down here. Up there I was treated to another strong experience: Of the value of contact and communication as it bears on my own work. At times like this I think our

isolation down here is damn seriously bad for us.

A curious train of events this month has left us rather punch-drunk, wondering what to do next: Engineering technicalities washed out my plans for building with Quonset. The rains came and almost washed Sim out of the studio. Then Miss Barnsdall arrives in a huff and literally finishes the expulsion. We must be out by December first. My application through F.H.A. for hardship priority is denied just as I become enthusiastic over a pre-fabricated cabin being sold that would substitute for our needs well. Moving the equipment means more delays on our films. By this time the stage is set. The truly inexplicably unexpected occurs. The Baroness

whom we have always known to match Miss Barnsdall tit for tat,— particularly in Jims dreams,— tops it all with this letter: .... "since we have not recieved any monthly reports from you nor anything else which you promised, it seems to be advisable That the scholarship must stop." The letter was only a few words longer than what I have quoted. It was written by her secretary. We got out our file of her previous' letters to look for the requirement that we supply monthly reports instead of the casual letters averaging one every two months that Jim has actualy written. Not finding that and wondering what promises other than to send her completed films we had made, we were

only the more perplexed.

I think I had mentioned to you how I ~~had~~ considered our support from her always to have been of the most precarious order. After Jim's experience in New York of the museums management — or want of it, — of the manner in which the money was granted without apparently any paper work, any statement of rules or any contract. Ideal in the sense of the freedom of it, but I had always sensed this turn of heart for the Baroness' part would be a simple matter. Why should it have happened tho? Simultaneous with Miss Barnsdall's whimsy it makes high irony.

The facts are, contrary to what

she must believe

, this year (thanks largely to her, God bless her) we have covered more important ground than ever before. Our work has been experimental in a manner that we had always thought previously would be the most benificial to us. That is without the usual compulsions to complete a film in a given amount of time with a prescribed supply of film, we have actualy experimented as freely if not as lavishly as the Hollywood film budgets permit retakes. This was possible where it usualy is not in avant-garde film work by virtue of our use of the least expencive film which we process ourselves as well as the gift of time. The net result has been some-what as expected: A certain profficiency

with our instruments and a new wisdom of choise in composition. Just as it would be in any creative medium

But one year lacking one month of this is not enough. Two or even three years is more nearly what we must have to achieve the kind of intimate relationship with this new medium that will bring about films possessing a human artistic vitality.

Thus we are obliged to direct once more most of our energys into securing this kind of sponsorship.

If there were any opportunitys of this sort in San Francisco that you can suggest, now we want most surely to follow them up. I would arrange to come up on another visit if you were to advise it.

In order to strengthen my application for the Guggenheim Fellowship I am going to try to find more names for reference. If you could get Frankenstein's and Douglas MacAgy and, incidently, if they are amiably disposed toward this work, I am sure they would be valuable additions.

Jim at least will complete a large fragment of his new film within the next two weeks. It will go immediatly to the Baroness to try to make amends there. But at least this means that there will soon be work in progress, prints of which we will send up to you.

Sincerily

John Whitney

Feb 15, 1947

Dear John,

Dick and I had planned to make a trip down to L.A. this weekend, but we've had to change our plans, although Dick may be able to get down by himself next week sometime.

Did Mr. Rosenheimer of the Museum of Modern Art Film Library pay you a visit? He has been in L.A; he wrote us asking for your address.

We are anxious to learn of your present situation after the rather disastrous turn of fortune early@ this year.

Anyhow, we are caught with less than a month and a half to make up a new series for the spring. It will run in April and the early part of May - five programs instead of ten, this time. And we'd like to have all new material for this, and have another series of only repeats. Which leads up to asking you if that new film is completed. At any rate - let us here from you soon. My best to Jim.

Sincerely

Frank Stauffacher

Feb. 28, 1947

Dear Jim:

We had such a pleasant visit in Hollywood this last time that it has taken Frank and me a week to return to normal. We suddenly realized that we had very little time to get our April program together, and worked late Monday assembling it. We phoned The Museum of Modern Art Monday and confirmed all of our date after checking with the local competitor and finding that all was well. McAgy is still on our sponsorship list. We are ready with everything except Robert Florey's films and a confirmation from Weinberg. Enclised you will find a few of our Series Two program announcements--Frank's layout. It looks good to me.

Also either you or John asked for several copies of the catalogue announcement; you will find 10 enclosed. I talked to George Leite and he is sending you a letter about your films and is going to ask you to write an article for a future edition of Circle magazine on your concept of audio-visual music. Frank and I will send down a letter with the catalogues as soon as they are printed--probably about March 15-20. You will notice that we scheduled your film for the night of April 25; even if you have only a fragment, it will make no difference. Could you write a short program note to go along wiht it?

As to our finances, they a re low right now; until we have sold several more catalogues and have sold out this next series, we will be in the red. However, we expect to be about 500-700dollars in the clear if all goes well. We should be able to send you and Fischinger about 50 to 100 each again.

Thank you again for the very pleasant stay in the Park. I got a real rest there, and feel like a different person. I started looking for a new job this week; the pressure of the present one is too energy consuming and the type of people we contact are a waste of time insofar as any lasting personal relationships are concerned. I enjoyed our conversations very much; will have a longer letter about them soon. I'll send you a copy of Reich's book on character as soon as the person to whom I lnet it returns it. Please say hello to your brother and his wife for both Frank and me, and to Eli and Dr. Hodell if you see them. We will write Rosenheimer and Eli and Hodell soon.

Sicerely

Dick Foster

FILM RESEARCH PROJECT
JOHN AND JAMES WHITNEY • 550 SOUTH MADISON AVENUE • PASADENA 5, CALIFORNIA

March 6 1947

Dear Dick:

Thanks for your letter and inclosed Calaloque announcements.

The week-end break from work was a rest for me as well, and a change from the sometimes deadening vacuum which now exists in so called human contacts.

Your suggestion of sending the Reich book sounds great, as buying books at the present time seems out of place in relation to finances. The loaning of such books helps considerable.

We hope to have 330ft. to send for the

FILM RESEARCH PROJECT
JOHN AND JAMES WHITNEY • 550 SOUTH MADISON AVENUE • PASADENA 5, CALIFORNIA

April 25 date and see no reason for not working up program notes as well. The 50 to 100 again of course is very encouraging.

Again best of luck to you and Frank on Series 2.

Hope to here from you, as indicated in letter.

Sincerely
Jim

FILM RESEARCH PROJECT
JOHN AND JAMES WHITNEY • 550 SOUTH MADISON AVENUE • PASADENA 5, CALIFORNIA

James A. Whitney
12018 Laconia Ct.
North Hollywood

Dear Dick:

Excuse my very late acknowledgment of receiving the Wilhelm Reich book. Thanks very much.

The process of mooring has been underway for the past four weeks and only now can we begin to see an end.

Will George Dick send film print back soon? We are now sending prints out and will need it as soon as possible. Also the $50 would come in very handy at this time.

I hope you enjoyed Jim Fitzsimmons and his work as much as I have.

FILM RESEARCH PROJECT
JOHN AND JAMES WHITNEY » 550 SOUTH MADISON AVENUE » PASADENA 5, CALIFORNIA

I feel Man Ray's statement "The most significant development I have seen in 20 years", is quite valid.

More delays have held up catalogue I presume. We are of course all very anxious for its arrival.

Best Regards

Jim

Will be in San Francisco for Henry Moore show and hope to see you then.

J. A. Whitney
1618 N. Edgemont St.
L.A. 27

LOS ANGELES CALIF. MAR 4 5 PM 1947

CENTENARY 1847 5¢ N.Y.

INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

U.S. POSTAGE STAMPS

Dick Foster
San Francisco Museum of Art
War Memorial – Civic Center
San Francisco, Calif.

~~550 SOUTH MADISON AVENUE~~ • ~~PASADENA 5, CALIFORNIA~~

Dear Frank Stauffacher:

The photographs for exhibition are now in the mail. Each one has a typewritten caption which you are free to arrange in relation to the pictures as you see fit. The optical printer is shown in two views with only one caption.

We had originally planned a more elaborate display combining some diagrams and text with these photographs. Unfortunately this is as far as we got.

Sincerely
John Whitney